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The Protest of the Trees

and

Flossie's Alphabet Lesson

Two Blue Bird Plays

By

MRS. ARTHUR T. SEYMOUR

Author of "The Mystic Seven," "The Unselfish Violet," "A Camp Fire Cinderella," etc.

BOSTON

WALTER H. BAKER & CO.

1918

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The Protest of the Trees

CHARACTERS

A GIRL, *a Bluebird.*

OAK
MAPLE
CHESTNUT
DOGWOOD
BEECH
SASSAFRAS
HICKORY

Forest Trees. The Oak should be the tallest and the Sassafras should be the smallest.

COSTUMES

GIRL.—A dainty white dress.

TREES.—Gowns of wood brown, hanging straight from the shoulders, reaching nearly to the floor. Each gown should be trimmed with the leaves of the tree represented. Each girl carries, soldier fashion, a branch of her tree in each hand.

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The Protest of the Trees

SCENE.—*A forest. The* TREES *enter and give a short drill, march time. After the drill they form a semicircle with the* OAK *in the center.*

OAK. Welcome, sisters! We are met here to protest against the ignorance of so many children.

MAPLE. Yes! How can any one look at my beautifully shaped leaves and think I am an Oak!

OAK. I was mistaken for a Chestnut the other day.

CHESTNUT. You should have felt highly flattered!

OAK. Well, I'll admit it was better than to have been called a Dogwood!

DOGWOOD. In the early spring I am the best known tree in the forest.

BEECH. Oh, yes! But no one knows you after your flowers are gone.

DOGWOOD. You needn't talk! No one knows you until your nuts are ripe in the fall.

HICKORY. Everybody finds me easily.

SASSAFRAS. Yes, in the fall when you have some nuts, but the children know my tender young leaves all summer long.

OAK. Suppose we stop quarreling and think of some plan by which we may become better known.

HICKORY. We must impress our individuality upon every child!

CHESTNUT. Hush! Here comes a little girl!

(TREES *retire and form in groups at rear and sides of stage.*)

OAK

DOGWOOD HICKORY BEECH MAPLE
SASSAFRAS CHESTNUT

GIRL (*enters, dancing, going in and out of* TREES. *Waltz time—slow*). Oh! Isn't it lovely here in these woods, with all these dear trees! I am so glad to see you all! (*Goes to the different* TREES *and embraces them.*) You lovely Oak, you are so tall and strong and your leaves are so green! You dear Dogwood! You are just as sweet as ever, even without your flowers!

CHESTNUT. I believe you know us all!

GIRL. Of course I do, Miss Chestnut! Give me a few nice young leaves, please, you sweet little Sassafras. (*Picks some leaves.*) Howdy, Miss Hickory? Are you going to have lots of nuts this year?

HICKORY. Plenty for nice girls like you!

BEECH (*sadly*). I'm the only one you don't know!

GIRL. Of course I know you, Miss Beech, and I know ever so many trees who are not here. Where are Locust, White Birch and Willow?

OAK. We invited them, but they have not come.

GIRL. Why are you all here and why do you look so solemn?

HICKORY. We have formed a society to protest against the ignorance of children!

CHESTNUT. I am tired of being called a Maple!

MAPLE. We are all tired of being mistaken for a Chestnut!

GIRL. I see your difficulty. Perhaps I can help.

TREES (*eagerly, all together*). Please do!

(TREES *gather around the* GIRL, *forming a semicircle back of her.*)

GIRL. You see, I am a Bluebird, and we all study flowers, birds and trees so that we know them very well.

BEECH. How charming!

HICKORY. You are only one!

GIRL. If I promise to teach your names to ten girls and ask each one of them to teach ten others, wouldn't that help?

TREES. Oh, yes!

GIRL. Then your troubles will soon be over and before very long every little girl who comes into these woods will know each one of you and will love you all,

like I do! Now please wave your branches and look happy again.

(TREES *wave their branches, circle around* GIRL *with the branches meeting over her head and go out. A short drill may be used to end the scene.*)

CURTAIN

Flossie's Alphabet Lesson

A Blue Bird Play

Flossie's Alphabet Lesson

CHARACTERS

FLOSSIE, *a little Blue Bird.*
HER MOTHER, *who does not believe in Fairies.*
THE FAIRY "SINHELGRO," * *sent by the Spirit of Wohelo.*

Any number of Blue Birds.

COSTUMES

FLOSSIE and her MOTHER wear any suitable dresses.

The BLUE BIRDS wear the Blue Bird Costume or else any pretty dresses.

SINHELGRO wears a Camp Fire Ceremonial Dress, Head-band, Moccasins, etc.

*Sinhelgro from "Sing, Help, Grow."

Flossie's Alphabet Lesson

SCENE.—*A room.* FLOSSIE *and her* MOTHER *enter;* FLOSSIE *is looking cross. She carries a primer or an alphabet card.*

MOTHER. Now, my dear little daughter, I am going to leave you here alone and I want you to try again very hard and see if you can learn to say your alphabet.

FLOSSIE (*crossly*). I don't want to study! (*Stamps her foot.*) I want to go out and play! Anyway, teacher says I don't have to know my alphabet!

MOTHER. Yes, I know that is the new method of teaching reading, but I shall never be satisfied until you can say your alphabet without getting the letters all mixed up.

FLOSSIE (*sighing*). Well, mother, I'll try! You know I am a Blue Bird and "Trying," I suppose, is one way to "Help!"

MOTHER. Yes, indeed! That is a fine way to "Help." After you learn the alphabet nicely, we will go to the store and you may buy a new doll.

FLOSSIE (*dancing joyfully*). Oh, mother! A big doll?

MOTHER. Yes, a nice big, big doll!

(MOTHER *goes out.*)

FLOSSIE (*sitting down by table and studying*). There, now! I'm sure I know it! (*Stands and recites in a sing-song tone.*) A-B-D-C-F-G-E —— What comes next? (*Thinks a moment.*) E—oh yes—H-J-K-L-N-M-O-Q-V-X-Y —— That's all wrong! I'll never learn it and I am so tired! (*Half crying.*) I wish, wish, wish that a

nice Fairy would come to help me! (*Yawns.*) I am so tired!

(*Sits by table, puts head down and goes to sleep.*)

Enter the FAIRY SINHELGRO.

SINHELGRO. Where is that dear little Blue Bird who wished three times for a Fairy? Wake up, Flossie! (*Shakes her gently.*) Here I am!

FLOSSIE (*sleepily*). Where am I?

SINHELGRO. You are in Blue Bird Dreamland.

FLOSSIE (*rubbing her eyes*). Who are you? (*Rises.*)

SINHELGRO. I am the good fairy Sinhelgro. The Spirit of Wohelo sent me here to help you.

FLOSSIE. Yes, I know I wished for a Fairy but I really didn't believe one would come.

SINHELGRO. The Spirit of Wohelo always watches over her Blue Birds and is always ready to send them help. (*Turns toward entrance.*) Ho, Fairies! Come and help this dear little Blue Bird!

(*The* BLUE BIRDS *flutter in, waving arms like birds flying.*)

FLOSSIE. Are they Fairies? They look just like some little girls I know.

SINHELGRO. They are Fairy Blue Birds. Listen to them carefully and when they are through singing you will know the alphabet and every letter will be in the right place.

BLUE BIRDS (*sing—tune—"The Alphabet Song"*).

Listen to us and we will sing
Of everything you want to know;
From Fairyland kind help we bring
To show you how the letters go.*
A, B, C, D, E, F, G,
H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P—etc.

(*While they are singing the alphabet, they flutter around* FLOSSIE *three times in a large circle. As they fly off the stage,* FLOSSIE *grows sleepy, puts*

* Any Kindergarten songs or alphabet songs may be introduced here.

head down on table again and goes to sleep. SINHELGRO *goes out quietly.*)

MOTHER (*outside, calling*). Flossie, Flossie! (*Enters hastily; sees* FLOSSIE *sleeping; shakes her.*) Flossie! you are a naughty little girl! I thought you were studying all this time and you were just sleeping!

FLOSSIE. Oh, mother! I have had such a beautiful time! The Fairy Sinhelgro and ever so many Fairy Blue Birds came and taught me how to sing the alphabet!

MOTHER. What are you talking about! There are no Fairies now!

FLOSSIE. Oh, yes, there are! The Spirit of Wohelo sent the Fairy Sinhelgro and all the others to help me! Listen! (FLOSSIE *sings.*) "A, B, C, D, E, F, G—etc."

MOTHER. Very good, my dear; I see you did not waste your time after all! Now we will go down-town and you may choose your new dolly.

(*They go out,* FLOSSIE *dancing and skipping.*)

CURTAIN

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